

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**

State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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**DOH-Franklin Recognizes Sheriff's Office Tobacco Free Policy****Contact**

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**Apalachicola, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Health in Franklin County and the Tobacco Free Partnership would like to recognize the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for adopting a tobacco free policy.

"Smokefree environments are safer for everyone's health", said Marsha Lindeman, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Gulf and Franklin Counties. "We would like to recognize Sheriff Smith for taking important steps to promote and protect the health of his employees through comprehensive tobacco free standards."



Pictured Above: Sheriff AJ Smith and Tobacco Prevention Specialist Kari Williams

New signage purchased by the Tobacco Free Partnership is displayed around the building. This new policy also applies to vehicles. In addition, new employees hired on with the department must live a tobacco free lifestyle while current tobacco users are offered cessation services.

If any organization in the community is interested in implementing tobacco free policies, the Florida Department of Health in Franklin County has the tools needed to assist in these efforts. For more information, call Kari Williams, Tobacco Prevention Specialist at 850-227-1276, ext 0423.

Quitting tobacco may be difficult, but it is not impossible. There are more former smokers than current smokers in the state. Those who have tried to quit in the past but relapsed are encouraged to try again as quitting smoking may require several attempts.<sup>5,6</sup>

**About Tobacco Free Florida**

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 188,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs.<sup>i</sup> To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com) or follow the campaign on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida](https://www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla](https://www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla).

**About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFla). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).

<sup>i</sup>Mann, Nathan M, Nonnemaker, James M., Thompson, Jesse. "Smoking-Attributable Health Care Costs in Florida and Potential Health Care Cost Savings Associated with Reductions in Adult Smoking Prevalence." 2016.